UNITED NATIONS

DP

Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund

Distr.
LIMITED

DP/1995/L.6/Add.8
12 June 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Annual session 1995
5-16 June 1995, New York

DRAFT REPORT ON THE ANNUAL SESSION
NEW YORK, 5-16 JUNE 1995

IV. UNFPA/UNDP: REPORTS TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

B. United Nations Development Programme

1. The Assistant Administrator and Director of the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS), in introducing document DP/1995/30/Add.3, underlined the importance to UNDP inherent in the outcomes of the International Conference on Population and Development and the World Summit on Social Development and outlined measures that were being taken by UNDP in that regard. He stressed that all three United Nations Conferences - the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, IPCD and WSSD - did provide a lot of new insight as regarded the need for a new approach to development; the need for integration of enviromental concerns into economics; the importance of empowering women and of providing education to girls; the need to rethink conventional models of economic growth so as to pay more attention to the needs of the poor.

2. UNDP had prepared an action plan for ICPD follow-up, he continued, which highlighted its role in helping to move the Cairo outcome into mainstream policy dialogue and to take account of the development implication of population dynamics. Follow-up actions included the following: in-house review of policies and programmes to bring them in line with the recommendations of the ICPD Programme of Action; training and sensitization of UNDP staff on the messages emerging from the Conference; active participation in the ICPD Inter-Agency Task Force; joint agency follow-up initiatives; and articulation of ICPD follow-up with that of other major and recent United Nations conferences. With regard to the follow-up to WSSD, he outlined the explicit responsibilities assigned to UNDP by the WSSD Programme of Action. He emphasized that the work of UNDP would be demand-driven and tailored to local needs. A strategy paper entitled "From poverty to equity", which emphasized the need to make the follow-up to WSSD the organization's main focus, had been sent to all resident representatives. Another paper entitled "Beyond Copenhagen" was also available.

/...

3. With regard to the role of UNDP in follow-up to ICPD, one delegation, on behalf of others, emphasized the need for UNDP to integrate population issues fully into its development strategy, with coordination at the country level through the resident coordinator. UNDP was also asked to cooperate fully with the Population Division of the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis in carrying out the work related to the Commission on Population and Development.

4. One speaker noted that the follow-up to WSSD could be an occasion for UNDP to clarify further its priorities and sharpen its focus. Another commented that UNDP should continue to concentrate on poverty eradication, particularly in helping countries to formulate national strategies against poverty. One delegation suggested that UNDP report back to the Executive Board on follow-up to WSSD at the first regular session of 1996.

5. The Associate Administrator, in response, said plans for follow-up to the two conferences fitted well into the four focus areas of UNDP and thus would be integrated into existing programmes. He reiterated that the outcomes of both ICPD and WSSD were of vital importance to the future work of UNDP. He explained that document DP/1995/30/Add.3 had been produced well in advance of the Executive Board's annual session and therefore did not include all details of recent action taken, as did the two papers mentioned above. However, supplementary materials were now available to delegations. In his view, UNDP had a specific comparative advantage in the follow-up to WSSD in view of its mandate for sustainable human development and intersectoral focus, particularly in providing support for the creation of macroeconomic frameworks, governance, national strategies for poverty eradication, government participatory mechanisms, credit schemes, and sustainable livelihoods. In response to a request for further information about the inter-agency task forces referred to in the report, he explained that the Secretary-General would introduce the proposal at the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council for 1995 during the coordination segment since it was part of his own report, to which UNDP had given inputs.

6. The Executive Board took note of sections II and III of the reports to the Economic and Social Council (DP/1995/24/Part. III and DP/1995/30/Add.3) and transmitted them, together with the comments of the Board, to the Economic and Social Council.